Montana Crime Reporting

Newsletter

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2008 Crime Data

A big thanks goes out to all of those agencies that submitted 12-months of electronic crime data to the MBCC. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. The crime data you submit is used in many federal block grant formulas, such as the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant. Your efforts in reporting crime data is helping to bring federal grant dollars into Montana to assist in crime fighting and prevention efforts.

In 2008, 98 agencies submitted **some** data electronically, up from 93 in 2007. However, 89 agencies reported a complete 12-months of crime data in 2008, down from 91 in 2007.

In 2008, the Custer Co. Sheriff's Office and Miles City Police Depart, and Daniels Co. Sheriff's Office all began reporting electronic crime data. The MBCC also anticipates the University of Montana Public Safety Department to begin reporting electronic crime data in 2009.

A few agencies experienced major RMS issues that prevented them to submit all 12-months of data. Please make sure that you have a backup system in place in the event that your server crashes. If you need technical assistance regarding a backup system, please contact Kathy or Jimmy at the MBCC.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The MBCC has developed a website with helpful information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), in order to keep Montana's criminal justice system stakeholders informed about ARRA grant opportunities. The website focuses on Byrne/JAG funding, Violence Against Women Act funding (VAWA), and Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding. This resource can be found on the MBCC website at: http://mbcc.mt.gov. For more information feel free to contact Lily Yamamoto at: lyamamoto@mt.gov.

MTIBRS Standards

The Montana Incident-Based Reporting Standards Handbook is available at: http://www.mbcc.mt.gov/Data/CrimeDataSubmissions/CrDataSub.asp.
It is based on the FBI standards and provides the **guidelines** of reporting accurate crime data.

Definition of an Incident for MTIBRS Reporting Purposes

For MTIBRS reporting purposes, an incident is defined as one or more offenses committed by the same offender or group of offenders *acting in concert*, at the *same time and place*.

Acting in Concert requires that offenders actually commit or assist in the commission of the crime(s). All offenders must be aware of and consent to the commission of the crime(s) or if non-consenting, their actions assist in the commission of the cime(s). This is **important** because all of the offenders in an incident are considered to have committed all of the offenses in the incident. If one or more of the offenders did not act in concert, there is possibly more than one incident involved.

Same time and place means that the time interval between the crimes and the distance between locations where they occurred were insignificant. The crimes must have occurred during an unbroken time duration and at the same or adjoining location(s).

<u>Examples</u>

An incident can be comprised of offenses which by nature involve continuing criminal activity by the same offender at different times and places, as long as the activity is necessary to constitute a single criminal transaction. For example, a bank employee over a 12-month period systematically embezzles $50,000.

A robbery of a convenience store with suspect A and suspect B. Both A and B steal cash from the register. As suspect A takes money from all of the customers in the store, suspect B sexually assaults an employee in a back storage room without suspect A's knowledge.

This example illustrates how one call can involve multiple incidents. The first incident includes the robbery with Suspects A and B. The second incident includes the sexual assault with only suspect B. Suspect A did not act in concert with suspect B to commit the sexual assault, therefore it would be reported as a separate incident.

MTIBRS Definition of an Arrest

For MTIBRS reporting purposes the, MBCC collects arrest information for all reportable offenses found in the Appendix A-C in the MTIBRS handbook. For reporting purposes, the MBCC considers a citation (i.e. notice to appear) as an arrest, such as a minor in possession citation.

The MTIBRS accepts three Types of Arrest: 1.) 'O' = On-View Arrest; 2.) 'S' = Summoned/Cited; 3.) 'T' = Taken Into Custody.

The 'O' = On-View Arrest code would be used when an offender is taken into custody without a warrant or previous incident report.

The 'S' = Summoned/Cited code would be used when an offender is issued a citation or summons and is not taken into custody.

The 'T' = Taken Into Custody code would be used when an offender is arrested based on a warrant or previously submitted incident report.

MTIBRS Tips of the Month

"Tip of the Month" training tools can be found at: *www.mbcc.mt.gov/Data/publications/Newsletter Tip/Newsletter_Tips.asp*

Your data is important to the MBCC and the state of Montana. It is used to guide policy development at a state and local level. Additionally, the Federal Department of Justice places an emphasis on crime reporting as a criteria for distributing federal funds.

To compare how arrest codes are being reported to the MBCC, here are some statistics for 2007 and 2008.

Table 1

	2007		2008	
	Zero (0)	**10 or Less**	**Zero (0)**	**10 or Less**
Summoned/Cited	22 of 93 agencies	23 of 93 agencies	19 of 98 agencies	24 of 98 agencies
Taken Into Custody		35 of 93 agencies		38 of 98 agencies
On-View Arrest		21 of 39 agencies		34 of 98 agencies

Table 1 shows the total number of agencies reporting zero and/or ten or fewer of the three arrest types. In 2007, 22 of 93 agencies reported zero summoned/cited arrest types, compared to 19 of 98 agencies in 2008. In total 45 agencies reported zero to ten summoned/cited arrests in 2007, compared to 43 in 2008.

Table 2

Type of Arrest	Total	2007	2008
Summoned/Cited	**30,781**	15,459	15,322
Taken Into Custody	**14,459**	7,794	6,665
On-View Arrest	**29,302**	14,799	14,503
Grand Total	**74,542**	**38,052**	**36,490**

Table 2 shows the number of arrests by year for 2007 and 2008 by arrest type. For 2007 and 2008, over 15,000 summoned/cited arrest types were reported. The total number reported in 2008 is slightly down from 2007 levels. The most commonly reported offense category associated with the summoned/cited arrest type was UCR code 90G (Liquor Law Violations). Over the two year period, over 10,500 summoned/cited arrest were reported under this offense category. Again, more were reported in 2007 than in 2008.

The total number of on-view arrests are slightly lower than the number of summoned/cited arrests. DUI offenders were most commonly reported arrested On-View than any other offense.

The "All Other" category showed the most taken into custody arrests over the two year period at over 4,000 arrest.

In total over the 2-year period, 74,542 arrests were reported. The total number of arrests in 2008 is down about 4% from 2007 levels.

NOTE: This data only includes law enforcement agencies that submit electronic crime data to the MBCC. Those agencies data submitted on paper forms was not included in this analysis.

FREE NIBRS TRAINING

Please consider attending a free NIBRS training April 1-2, 2009, in Great Falls, MT. The training will conducted by Darrin Moor of the FBI. You can find more information about the training on the MBCC website: http://mbcc.mt.gov.